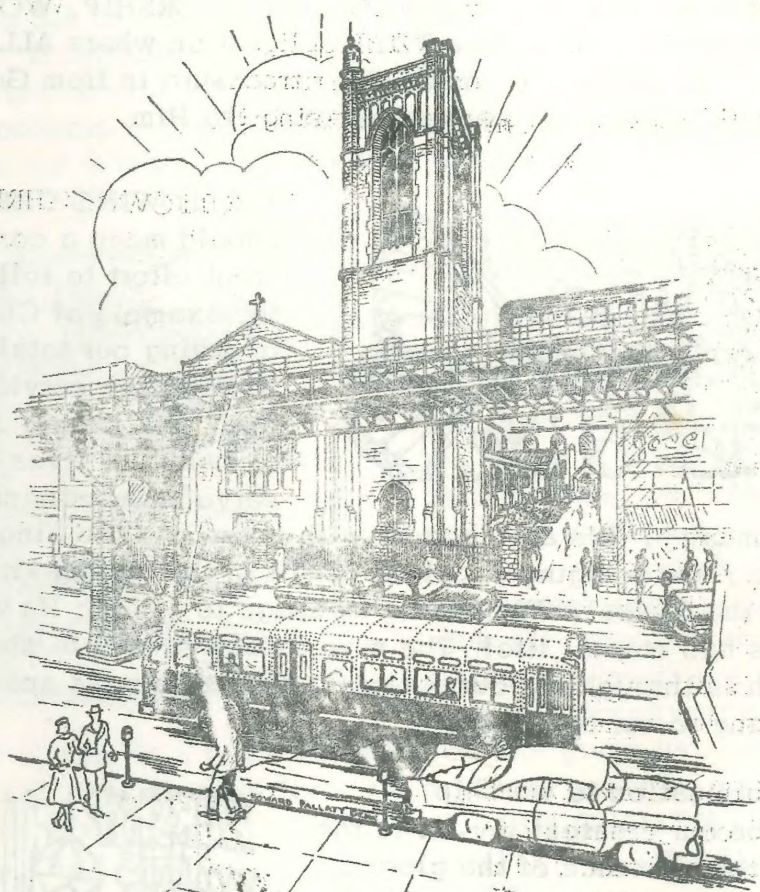


The Episcopal Church Welcomes You ~~NEEDS!~~ in St. Mark's Church, Frankford



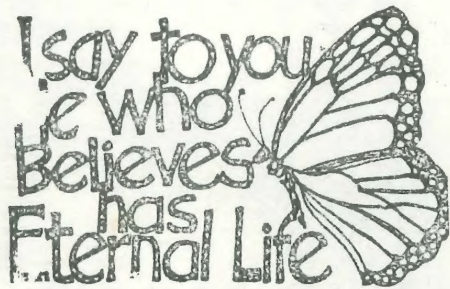
GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD

EVERY MEMBER CHALLENGE - 1978

"MY BOUNDEN DUTY"

Without compromise, the Book of Common Prayer sets forth for us our liability for Christian Stewardship. In the Office of Instruction, in answer to the question, "What is my bounden duty?" we learn the answer: "My bounden duty is to follow Christ, to worship God every Sunday in His Church, and to work, pray, and give for the spread of His Kingdom." The key words FOLLOW, WORSHIP, WORK, PRAY AND GIVE, add up to a TOTAL obligation where ALL our time, ALL our talent, and ALL our treasure is from God, and should be used in a manner pleasing to Him.

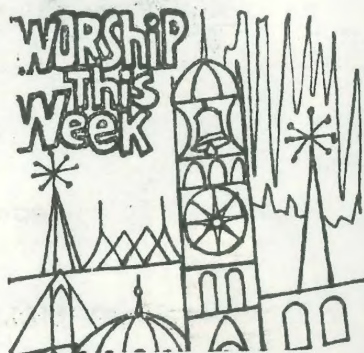
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"FOLLOWING CHRIST" should mean a constant effort to follow the example of Christ in giving our total lives to the service of God. We should strive to make our lives serve as a witness to

the community. We are charged with extending the kingdom of Christ, and bringing people to share in the saving knowledge of the Gospel. We have a message to SHARE: He who believes has eternal life! The most effective way to share our faith is through our own example of faithfulness and witnessing to our brethren.

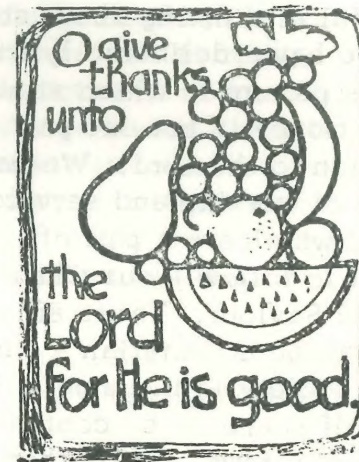
Our obligation to worship should be our greatest joy. It is the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of Christ and a rededication of our lives for the week ahead. Worship should include frequent participation in Holy Communion, and should be a year 'round practice, including vacations and summers!



"WORK"

Where God has blessed us with the talents we do have and where we employ them effectively, we might assist in the Church School, help with youth, sing in the Choir, serve on the Altar, or the Acolyte's Guild, work with the Church Women — the many other countless activities of our Parish. We must also remember that our EVERY DAY work is our most important Christian vocation. Since all that we have, and all that we are comes from God, it follows that all that we do should be seen as service to God, whether it be teaching school, being a mechanic or tradesman, a professional, or whatever. Even our leisure time and how we spend it, is part of our stewardship.

"GIVE"



The most important thing when we consider our giving, is that we think in terms of our time and our talent as well as our treasure. Our gift should represent a share, or "tithe" of the first and the best we receive, and not what we can conveniently spare after all other personal wants and needs are taken care of. Scripture teaches

that a tithe is a tenth of what God has given us. Today's Church, knowing we live in a different society, suggests 5% as a standard to work toward. OUR CHALLENGE TO YOU THIS YEAR IS EVEN MORE SIMPLE — IS THIS THE YEAR YOU CAN TAKE A "STEP UP"??

Our Church has shown new vigor, new life, we have lots of new programs in mind — will you help us do it, both by your participation AND your pledge?

* * * * *

"PRAY"

The thought that prayer is stewardship and that it is an obligation is sometimes startling. In recognizing that there are five essential forms of prayer, and that only one (petition) is used for personal reasons, we can see that we are giving of ourselves when we pray. Through our prayers of Adoration, Thanksgiving, Intercession and Penitence, we return a part of our lives to God. Prayer is certainly stewardship, for it is through prayer that we become more and more aware of the meaning of our "creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life."



Dear friends in Christ:

We hope you have found this little folder helpful in thinking about stewardship. We have deliberately tried to present a picture in which stewardship of our money is but one part of our obligation to the Lord. We have obligations of worship and service as well, all of which are a part of our commitment to follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. These are not easy times to be a Christian - our world, our society is in turmoil. The Church itself seems to be confused

about the right path to renewal and reform. Still, there are some bright signs!! For the first time in 10 years, in spite of threats of schism and confusion, the Episcopal Church has grown, instead of losing members. Dr. Martin Marty in an article in the *Episcopalian* for January (read it!), says "this should be our year" with many disaffected Roman Catholics, and some solid Evangelicals looking at the richness and diversity of our tradition. More than ever then, the Church needs our loyalty, our faithful witness - and we need the Church to give our lives meaning in days like these. Make your pledge a sacramental offering that says, "I Care."

JRZ

THE PLAN FOR OUR CAMPAIGN

- January 8th. Feast of the Lord's Baptism. The Rector will preach on "My Commitment to Christ as my Lord and Saviour."
- January 15th. The Rector will preach on "My Commitment to the Church as the Body of Christ."
- January 22nd. "COMMITMENT SUNDAY." The Rector will preach on "My Personal Commitment of Myself as a Christian."

After the Service on the 22nd, during the fellowship hour, you will be given an opportunity to make your pledge for 1978. Those not able to be present will receive calls at home, unless we hear from you that you do not wish to be called on. If it is not your Will to pledge, we ask you to take a card and so-state, and if possible let us know otherwise of the depth of your loyalty and commitment to St. Mark's parish, and to Christ and His Church. DO YOUR BEST TO BE PRESENT ALL THREE SUNDAYS.

MY PLEDGE CARD FOR 1978 - ST. MARK'S PARISH

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

I Pledge \$ _____ per week \$ _____ month \$ _____ year

I am interested in offering my time and talents in the following areas of the Church's work:

TEAR OFF AND PRESENT ON JANUARY 22nd, or MAIL

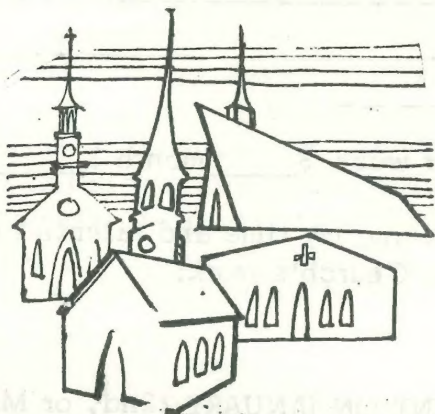
"I VOTED TO CLOSE THE CHURCH"

Last Sunday I voted to close the Church; not intention--ally, but carelessly, thoughtlessly, indifferently, I voted. I voted to close the open Bible that had been given to us by years of struggle and by the blood of martyrs who died that we might have it to read. I voted for our minister to stop preaching the glorious truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I voted that the children of the Sunday School no longer be taught the stories of the Bible, and the great truths of the Christian faith.

I voted for the voices of the Choir and of the congregation to be stilled, and that they no longer sing. I voted that the table of the Lord be no longer spread, and that the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ no longer be administered to His Faithful people.

I voted for the darkness of superstition, the degrading influence of sin, the blight of ignorance and the curse of selfish greed once again to settle their damning load on the shoulders of an already overburdened world. Carelessly, thoughtlessly, lazily, indifferently, I voted.

For you see, I was able to go to Church, I should have gone, but I didn't. I stayed away from Church last Sunday when it wasn't necessary. Adapted from a Baptist Minister.



FROM OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

WON'T YOU TAKE A STEP UP?

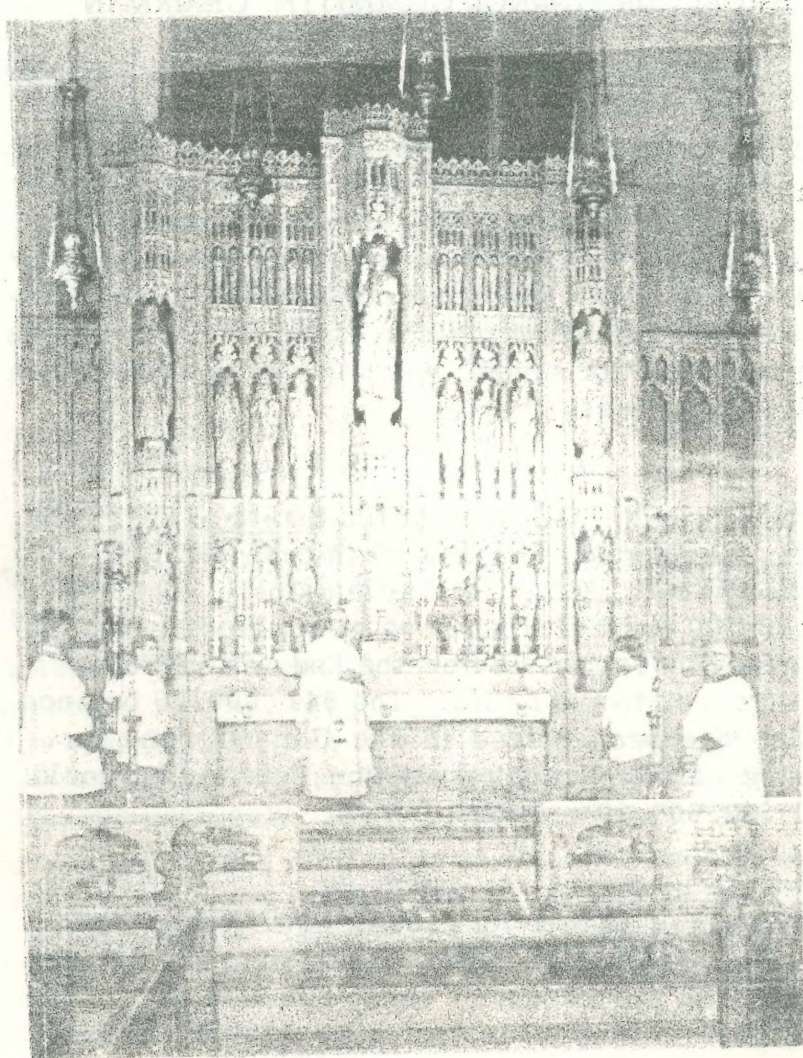
That is the theme of our appeal this year. The fact of the matter is that our Church has been "standing still" financially in a time of great inflation and using costs. We now feel it is time to take a step forward - a big step - which means that each of us must "take a step up" in our giving. If we give the "same as last year" (and for several years before that) we are in reality giving less.

Recently in settlement of the Estate of Bessie M. Rabke, we received \$89,000.00 in cash and 1400 shares of Smith, Kline Corporation stock. The sum of \$48,000.00 and the stock have been placed in the Endowment Fund. Income from the Endowment Fund helps us look to the future. The \$41,000.00 balance of cash has been placed in the General Fund for payment of organ repairs, roofing, etc., that could total \$32,000.00 or more.

Projected budget for 1978 indicates we are not even "holding our own". Last year our parish operated on an income of about \$75,000.00. This year, just to stay even, we need \$3,000.00 more in pledges. To go forward we must double that figure.

Won't you do the very best you can? Step Up!

Walt Spathelf
Chairman Finance Committee



1978 is our 146th year!
Will those who come
after, be able to say?....
"They were faithful -
They did their duty!"